

Questions and Answers Sent to the FDCA Site

Note: The Questions and Answers from Industry Day appear on the video which accompanies the agenda and PowerPoint slides.

1. In May 2003, a contract for the acquisition of PDAs was awarded to Hewlett Packard.
 - a. Were those PDAs used in the Census 2004 test?

Yes.

- b. Why issue a new contract for the acquisition of mobile computing equipment?

A new contract must be issued because the mobile computing equipment that may be included in the 2010 FDCA scope is not within scope of the competitive commercial acquisition that acquired the PDAs used in the Census 2004 test.

2. According to the milestone schedule for the 2004 Census Test, the NRFU operation was scheduled for April 24-July 3, 2004. I am assuming that the PDAs supplied by HP were used in this exercise. What are the names of the companies that provided the following services and products?
 - a. Field Systems Integrations and Service Management
 - b. Field Office Automation Equipment
 - c. Automation Support Services
 - d. Telecommunication Services

The Census Bureau provided services for the 2004 Census Test. Telos Corporation integrated the custom coded software and COTS products onto the handheld devices for the 2004 Census Test.

3. For the Data Collection and Administrative Software applications, what are the names of the companies that provided the following items:
 - a. Assignment Management Software

Census Bureau custom coded solution

- b. NRFU instrument software

Census Bureau custom coded solution

- c. Census coverage measurement (CCM) instrument software

CCM was not part of the 2004 Census Test

- d. Encryption and security software
FileCrypto/FSecure.

- e. Address and map update software

Maps were read-only on the handheld device for the 2004 Census Test. We used ESRI Arc Pad to display maps.

f. GPS hardware and software

Holux GPS Receiver - custom coded software to capture GPS.

g. Map retrieval software

ESRI Arc Pad

For more information about the system specifications used for the 2004 Census Test, please refer to the two documents posted to the Library “Mobile Computing Device - 2004 Test” and “September 15, 2004: MCD Initiative – High-Level Design and Functionality, and Test Specs.” Note: This system was developed for the 2004 Census Test as a prototype and does not represent the design we will use for the 2010 Census.

4. Under the Field Organization and Operational management, Partnership/Outreach and Quality Control are sub-processes of the Administrative Control Support Process

a. Did the Census Bureau have a Partnership/Outreach Process for the 2000 Census? If yes, will you be using a similar program or are you looking for a new outreach and promotional strategy? What is the name of the contractor used in 2000?

Yes, the Census Bureau implemented a Partnership/Outreach process in 2000. The contractors were not information technology, but media and communications firms. Although we may make changes to the Partnership/Outreach effort for the 2010 Census, we are not looking for this within the FDCA program, or for vendors for a new outreach and promotion strategy.

b. For Quality Control, does the contractor have to work on-site or is off-site work allowed?

If your question is in reference to Quality Control outlined in Appendix A, Section A.2.5 of the FDCA Program Scope Document, we do not yet have a specific plan for the design and development of the Quality Control for the 2010 Census field operations. Depending on the selected solution, off-site work could be allowed.

c. Is there a preference for the programming language used to develop the quality control tools?

No, it just needs to be able to communicate with the Field Operations Control Process.

d. What is the name of the contractor used in 2000?

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau developed most quality control. Gunnison, however, developed some quality control applications using an Oracle database.

5. In the FDCA Study Plans reference is made to an Operations Control System OCS. What is the difference between the OCS (e.g. OCS2000, OCS2004) and the Decennial Response Integration System (DRIS)?

The OCS (referred to as the Field Operations Control Process in Section A.2.2 of the “FDCA Program Scope, Processes, and Automated Considerations Document”) provides positive management control for each unit of work (listing, addresses, etc) assigned to our temporary, nationwide field organization. The Decennial Response Integration System (DRIS) tracks completed questionnaires once they have reached our

network of temporary processing facilities from the mail stream, the Internet, the temporary field organization, or other sources.

6. Security

Security Systems must conform to the prevailing security standards at the time of deployment and the security implementation should not adversely impact usability. Refer to Section C.1 of the FDCA program scope document for the information available at this time.

a. Data (encryption requirements)?

Encryption at some level will be required to meet Title 13 and other Statutes. Requirements have not yet been defined.

b. Access (physical and logical {ID} requirements)?

There will be requirements. For the 2004 Census Test there were login and transmission passwords. Refer to the Answer to Question 2 for more information.

7. Mobile Computing Devices 2010a. Has the technical specifications been confirmed?

No.

a. If not, what other features, functionalities does the Census Bureau deem useful?

Please refer to the FDCA Program Scope document for the automation considerations.

b. What 508 requirements will be required?

Both mobile and office environments must conform to prevailing standards at the time of deployment for all hardware and software unless waivers are granted.

c. What Language foreign requirements will be required?

We are still defining language requirements for the 2010 Census. English and Spanish are the minimum requirements defined at this time, as is stated in the FDCA Program Scope document.

d. What maintenance support and training requirements are required and/or anticipated?

The Census Bureau has not yet defined requirements for the 2010 Census and welcomes your input on these subjects.

e. GPS specs (what is the margin of error)?

Currently, the Census Bureau requirement is within 3 meters of the actual location for structures and within 7.6 meters of the centerline for the street feature.

8. What database format will the data be imported to? Data capture?

While the final design has not been determined, several viable options include Oracle or flat ASCII.

9. Overall Pilot project evaluation: what devices were used, how many deployed, lessons learned, connectivity (dial up, etc) for Queens NY, and the State of Georgia.

Refer the Answer at the end of Question 3 for documents to read in the FDCA Library to answer your question on the 2004 Census Test design. Lessons learned and evaluations of the 2004 Census Test will be posted to the Library as they become available.

10. Short forums (fields) versus long forums (how many data fields)

Go to “Census Forms” on the FDCA page for examples of data collection and report forms used in Census 2000. The forms and reports for the 2010 Census have not been finalized.

11. Network topology (12 regional and 520 local centers). Is this an area that the Census Bureau is seeking to optimize? If so, is a schematic drawing available for review and/or comment?

We are not presently seeking assistance on optimizing the number or location of our temporary field organization, however we do seek input on how to optimize the telecommunications topology.

12. Network/Telecom services and equipment. What sorts of solutions, product and services are envisioned?

The Census Bureau is seeking ideas and recommendations on solutions for network services.

13. The Census Bureau Strategic Plan stated that the Bureau should work towards replacing the long-form of the decennial census with the long-form of the annual American Community Survey, thus negating the need for the long form during the 2010 Census.
- a. For the 2010 Census, what are your expectations in terms of the similarities and differences between the design of the short forms mailed to the household units, access by the Internet and on those on the hand-held computers?

The Census Bureau is responsible for determining the wording of the questions asked to collect the decennial census content. The 2010 Census short-form content—request first and last name, age and date of birth, race, and Hispanic origin of each person living in the housing unit on Census Day are final; the wording of the questions asked to collect this content is not yet final. The Sample Census 2000 Short Form shown on the Internet Site represents our best example at this time. This is the paper mail form used for Census 2000. This form asked all questions (content) for each person in the household. We will use this same approach for asking the 2010 Census questions on the paper mail form. For Internet and hand-held applications, we are still testing different methods to collect data for these items.

14. Given the cost of the laptops it would be less expensive to use hand held computers (HHC) and for handheld computers, the short form is more suitable than the long form. For 2000 Census, the in-house staff of the Bureau of Census (BoC) developed the Internet questionnaire and data collection systems. The Bureau also developed the NRFU questionnaire for the hand-held computers in the 2004 Census Test and estimates that the price of the HHCs will be approximately \$300.
- a. For 2010 Census has the decision being made or is BoC still conducting market research to determine whether the Internet questionnaire, the NRFU questionnaire and the other data collection systems will be developed by contractors or BoC?

As the FDCA Program Scope Document posted on the website describes, the NRFU questionnaire and other data collection systems are part of FDCA at this time and may be developed by contractors. For the 2010 Census, the Internet questionnaire is not in scope for FDCA.

- b. If the Bureau decides to have contractors develop the NRFU questionnaires, which commercial licensing arrangement would you find more favorable?

We are currently in the market research phase of the FDCA program. We will not develop the acquisitions strategy until we have defined the technical solution. We are seeking recommendations from Industry on how to approach this.

15. The Operations Control System 2000 assigned and controlled work to all census enumerators, tracked progress of assignment, produced cost/progress reports on field operations, printed a wide variety of enumeration related materials and assisted with the management and tracking of shipping documents. It had 6 key interfaces, one of which was the FedEx interface.
- a. Is the Fields Operations Control System (FOCS) for Census 2010, a replacement for the OCS 2000?

Yes

- b. Will the FOCS be downloading data to and uploading data from the HHC?

Depending on the design selected for transmission of data, this may be a requirement. We are seeking Industry recommendations on how best to transmit the data from the HHC or other MCE which may be used by field workers.

- c. What are the applications, the operating systems, programming languages and DBMS of the other 5 systems, with which the OCS 2000 interfaced?

Interfaces consisted of database links when other internal systems utilized ORACLE database systems. Otherwise, the interfaces were technology independent by sharing/passing flat Ascii files. See below:

- **PAMS/ADAMS - Census 2000 Integrated Applicant, Personnel, and Payroll System was a customization of the Federal version of the PeopleSoft application running against an Oracle DBMS. The interface to OCS2000 consisted of a subset of ORACLE tables via a database link, i.e. OCS2000 linked to a subset of the PAMS/ADAMS tables.**
- **MIS - The Management Information System (MIS) provided high-level tracking reports across all RCCs and received information from multiple sources. OCS2000 provided access to tracking information via a database link from the MIS application. MIS queried/extracted the information needed.**
- **Geographic Reference Code Files (GRF-C)- Names and Address files were received from DSCMO for each operation. These came in the form of flat Ascii files which were processed via C programs by OCS2000 for input into the ORACLE database.**
- **OCS2000 provided flat Ascii files back to DSCMO with check-in status information for the assignment areas that were provided in the input files.**
- **National Processing Center (NPC) - NPC provided OCS2000 flat Ascii files regarding shipments received. OCS2000 processed these files via C programs.**

16. Have you ruled out FieldWorker 3.5 as a viable option for design the enumerator questionnaire?

We have not ruled out any design solution for the 2010 Census.

17. Does the draft 2010 Census Application Architecture include information on the applications that are required for the FDCA program?

The FDCA Program Scope Document includes information on the applications required for the FDCA program.

18. List the Divisions and Offices and their key personnel that are involved in the Field Operations. Does the Census Bureau have documentation of the business processes of the Divisions and Offices involved in the Field Operations? If yes, are they available to contractors?

The Field Organization and infrastructure for FDCA is described in Appendix A of

the FDCA Program Scope Document. The Business Processes in scope for FDCA at this time are described in Appendix B of the FDCA Program Scope Document. In the interest of equity, individual Census Bureau staff from other divisions and offices will not meet with Industry to discuss FDCA. If you would like to discuss FDCA with the interdivisional-team working on FDCA, please click on “Meet with FDCA Team” and submit a request.

20. What are the 7 complex operations that were supported by the OCS2000 during the pre-census phase?

Complex operations to be supported by Field Operations Control for the 2010 Census are described in Section A.2.2 of the FDCA Program Scope Document and will support the 2010 Census Field Data Collection Processes described in Appendix B of that same Scope Document. As noted in response to Question 15a, Field Operations Control will basically replace OCS2000.

21. Will the PAMS/ADAMS be used in 2010 or will it be replaced? If replaced, what is the name of the replacement system?

PAMS/ADAMS was the Integrated Applicant, Personnel and Payroll System used for Census 2000. We have not selected the solution for this function for the 2010 Census.

22. Could you provide more information on what is involved in the Quality Control Process?

Detailed requirements for the 2010 Census have not been defined. The only information available on this process is provided in Section A.2.5 of the FDCA Program Scope document.